

## **SOUTH OF THE THAMES CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2018/2019**

1. **AGM:** Held at Belgrave Hall on 27 April 2018.

2. **Elections / Re-elections:**

President: Mike Mann (Dulwich Runners)  
Hon. Gen. Sec: Geoff Newton (Tadworth AC)  
Hon Treasurer: Don Turner (Epsom & Ewell H)  
Hon. Race Sec.: Don Turner  
Hon. Asst. Sec. Archives & History: Brian Boulton (Cambridge Harriers)  
Hon. Asst. Sec. Trophies: Brian Boulton  
Hon. Auditor: Sarah Smith

3. **5 Mile Team Race**

This was held at Morden Park on 24 November 2018, local organisation by Dennis Williams. There were 262 finishers.

**Men**

1. Phil Wicks	Belgrave H	26.05
2. Colin High	Guildford & G AC	26.21
3. Andrius Jaksevicius	Belgrave H	26.27

**Women**

1. Saron Haileselasse	Belgrave H	30.29
2. Elkie Mace	Dulwich Runners	31.10
3. Chloe Crossman	G&G	31.25

**U20 Men**

1. Marcus Shantry	AFD	26.52
2. Jacob O'Hara	City of Portsmouth	27.20
3. Will Brockman	AFD	29.50

**U20 Women**

None entered.

**Men's Teams (4 Score)**

1. Guildford & Godalming AC	33 pts
2. Kent AC	50 pts
3. Belgrave H	54 pts

**Women's Teams (4 Score)**

1. Belgrave H	35pts
2. Dulwich Runners	39pts
3. South London H	64pts

**Men's Teams (8 Score)**

1. Kent AC	176 pts
2. Belgrave H	321 pts
3. Herne Hill H	334 pts

4. **7.5 Mile Championship Race**

This was held at Beckenham Place Park on 15 December hosted by Dulwich Runners. There were 338 finishers.

**Men**

1. Stephen Ferroni	Brighton & H	37.57
2. Joe Morwood	AFD	38.10

**Women**

1. Lucy Reid	Tonbridge AC	41.42
2. Nicole Taylor	Tonbridge AC	43.31

	3. Jamie Bryant Tonbridge AC	37.09		3. Amy Clements Kent AC	44.35
M40	Howard Bristow Brighton & H	40.09	W40	Teresa Murphy Kent AC	49.44
M50	Paul McCrone Kent AC	43.40	W50	Clare Elms Dulwich Runners	46.57
M60	Steve Smythe Dulwich R	49.35	W60	Anna Garnier Thames H&H	55.54

#### Men's Teams (6 Score)

1.	Brighton & Hove AC	75pts
2.	Tonbridge AC	129pts
3.	Kent AC	135pts

#### Women's Teams (6 Score)

1.	Belgrave H	68 pts
2.	Kent AC	98 pts
3.	Tonbridge AC	107 pts

#### Men's Teams (12 Score)

1.	Kent AC	503pts
2.	Herne Hill H	625pts
3.	Dulwich Runners	1078pts

Fixture congestion remains a major problem. This year, despite our best efforts, a Kent League fixture clashed with our 5 Mile Race. In the circumstances a field of 262 runners was good, when you consider that there were no Kent clubs taking part, (with the sole exception of Kent AC who run in the Surrey League). As things currently stand, we have avoided a clash with the Kent League for 2019, helped by there being 5 Saturdays in November 2019. Morden Park proved to be a good venue for cross country, although it's probably too small to host the 7.5 miles championship race. The course laid out by Dennis Williams proved to be popular with runners. Dennis chose to take on local organisation without involving his club and there was some concern that there would be enough marshals, but on the day of the race everything went well, and no runners went off course.

The Championship race was better supported with 338 finishers at Beckenham Place Park, despite freezing winds and driving rain. Host club Dulwich Runners devised an excellent if testing course, enjoyed by most runners, despite major landscaping works in the park resulting in fenced off areas. It is understood there will be an ornamental lake there when the work is complete. The adverse conditions were hard on the officials as well as the runners and at least one elderly marshal had to step down before the slower runners came in to the finish.

I am becoming concerned about the fact that the running of the Association is mostly in the hands of rather elderly persons and that these people cannot go on forever. Hopefully younger people will step up to fill the breach when this becomes necessary, otherwise 130 plus years of history will go down the drain.

Geoff Newton

Hon Gen Sec